

ARTICLES

MADE FOR

The Amicable Society,

OF THE

Parish of *GREAT-SHEEPY*,

IN THE

County of LEICESTER;

and *PLACES* adjacent:



Established the fourth Day of June,

One Thousand, Seven Hundred, and Eighty-Seven

For the mutual Assistance of all and every such Member or Members thereof, that may by Sicknes, or any other Infirmitiy, be incapable of following their respective Employments, also to encourage Industry, and to improve every other social Virtue that conspires to the good of Mankind in general, and this SOCIETY in particular.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Who can all Sense of others Ills escape,
Is but a Beast at best in human Shape.

TAMWORTH: Printed for the SOCIETY by *B. Shelton*, 1788.

ARTICLES

OF THE

ASSOCIATION





A R T I C L E S

M A D E F O R

T H E A M I C A B L E S O C I E T Y &c.

A R T I C L E I.



H A T the Members of the
A M I C A B L E S O C I E T Y, of
the Parish of *Great Sheepy*,
in the County of Leicester,
and Places adjacent, are
agreed, That every Person
who shall be accepted a
Member of the same, shall

be reputed a Person of sober Life, and of an
honest Character, before the Society shall
proceed to ballot for, or against his Admis-
sion ; and that no Person shall be admitted after
the signing of these Articles, that is under *eighteen*
or above *forty* Years of Age ; and if it afterwards
appears that any Member was Consumptive,
Lame, or had any other Infirmary at the Time
of

of his Admittance and concealed the same, such Member shall be excluded.

II.

THAT every Member of this Society, shall pay all Arrears due to the Box, at the End of three Months, or forfeit (over and above his regular Payments,) *Six-pence*; and if such Arrears are not discharged at the next ensuing Meeting, every such Member shall forfeit *One Shilling*; and it is also further agreed, that if all Arrears and Forfeitures stand undischarged and not paid to the Box at the End of six Months, every such Member shall be excluded: And it is also further and particularly agreed, that no Member whatsoever shall receive any Benefit from the Box in case of Sicknes. Lameness, &c. if he is in Arrears more than three Months, that is, every Member who neglects paying his Dues to the Box at the End of every three Months from his last Payment, shall not be entitled to any Benefit for that Space of Time he is subject to Fines and Forfeitures; nevertheless, when his Arrears and Fines are discharged, every such Member is entitled to all future Benefits, agreeable to the Articles, excepting always when under penal Circumstances.

III.

THAT as many Members of this Society, whose Inclination and Convenience it may suit, do meet every first *Saturday* in the Kalender-Month

Month, from the Date of these Presents, at the House of THOMAS WALTON, in *Great-Sheepy* aforesaid, between the Hours of *Eight* and *Ten* in the Summer, and *Seven* and *Nine* in the Winter Evenings; each present Member to pay *One Shilling*, and all Arrears to the Box, *Ten-pence* of it to go to the Box, and *Two-pence* for Liquor; and also every Out-Member to pay, or cause to be paid, all Arrears in the same Manner and Order, or to be subject to the Penalties mentioned in the second Article.—N. B. Each Person to pay *Five Shillings* Entrance.

IV.

THAT there shall be a good Box provided with three Locks and three Keys, the Stewards to have each of them one, and the Clerk the other, and that both Stewards and Clerk shall attend to do their respective Offices, and also bring their Keys by Eight o'Clock in the Summer and Seven in the Winter Evenings, or depute proper Persons belonging to the Society to transact their Business, or pay for such Omission, *One Shilling* each to the Box. The Constables to be subject to this Article the same as the Stewards and Clerk.

V.

THAT two Stewards shall be chosen annually out of the Committee, by Rotation, the first Meeting next ensuing the Feast; and if such of the Committee refuse to serve as Stewards as they stand

stand in Order on the List, the next shall stand, and that every Committee Man who refuses to serve the Office of Steward in his Turn, shall forfeit *Two Shillings* and *Six-pence* to the Box, the Clerk shall also be chosen at the same Time, or continued in his Office, according as he or the Majority may think proper; the Clerk to be allowed and paid by the Stewards, *Two Shillings* and *Six pence* per Quarter; and that if the Clerk shall omit entering into the Book the Payment of any Member or Members that attend the Meetings, and charge them with the same at a future Meeting, he shall, on Proof, forfeit *Two-pence* to the Box; and that if he omits calling any attending Member or Members, he shall forfeit the like Sum; and to prevent any Fraud upon the Society, it is expressly determined, that the Clerk shall not upon any Pretence, receive any Payments from the Members, and if it can be proved that he has, for every Month's Payment received, he shall forfeit *One Shilling* to the Box.

VI.

THAT there shall be an annual Feast on the *Old 29th of May*, at such House where the Club shall at that Time be kept, for the general Entertainment of the Society; where a sufficient Feast shall be provided, which Feast shall be paid for at the Expence of the Society, out of the Box, after the Rate of *Two Shillings* for each Member; and that there shall be a Sermon
preached

preached that Day on the Occasion, for which there shall be *One Guinea* paid by the Stewards out of the Society's Stock; and every Member who does not attend and go to Church to hear the said Sermon, shall forfeit *Six-pence*, to be spent on the Feast Day; and that every Member shall keep his Place to and from Church, according to the Priority of his Entrance, or forfeit *Two-pence* for every neglect, to the Box.

VII.

THAT at the next Meeting after the Feast, the old Stewards and Clerk shall make up their Accounts for the past Year, and if the Stewards shall be found deficient, and refuse to make good such Deficiencies, he or they shall forfeit *Twenty Shillings* to the Box; the old Stewards shall also deliver their Keys to the new Stewards, who shall then be chosen, together with the Society's Money they may have in Hand, or securities for the same or any other Matter or Concern, belonging to the Society, or forfeit double the Sum he or they withhold, and be sued by the succeeding Stewards, at the Expence of the said Society, for the same.

VIII.

THAT a Committee of eight Members be annually chosen, at the last mentioned Meeting, out of which Number the new Stewards are to be appointed, agreeable to the fifth Article; and that if it appear any new Articles are wanting
to

to promote the Welfare of the Society, the Stewards, Clerk, and Committee are hereby authorized to draw and form such new ones, and if they are approved of by the Majority of the then present Meeting, they shall be deemed to every Intent and Purpose equally binding and penal to every Member of the Society; nevertheless, no new Article or Order shall affect or bind in any Penalty any Member or Members of this Society, until he or they are first made acquainted with its Purport.

IX.

THAT the Stewards shall not set out to Interest any Sum of Money exceeding *Twenty Shillings* without the Consent of the Majority, or if that or a less Sum be set out to Interest or lent, and be lost, the Steward or Stewards who lent or set out the same, shall make good such Deficiency to the Box, or forfeit the full Value of the Sum so lost, to be recovered in such Manner as the Law directs, at the Expence of the Society.

X.

THAT there shall be two Constables chosen annually, who are as much as possible to keep the Members at Meetings silent while they are called over by the Clerk to pay their Arrears, &c. to the Stewards, and any Member who continues noisy and impertinent after they are charged by the Constables to keep Silence, shall forfeit *Twopence* to the Box; and if they are not reclaimed
by

by this Penalty, and continue troublesome, they shall immediately put him or them out of the Club Room. The Constables are likewise to serve the Members with Liquor at every Meeting and Feast, and take Care that every Member has an equal Share of such Liquor, or upon Proof given of any Partiality in its Distribution, shall forfeit *Two-pence* to the Box; they shall likewise provide Chairs for the Stewards, and bring in the Box when wanted, and take it to its proper Place when the Club Hours are over; they shall likewise attend the Club Hours both both Summer and Winter Evenings, and endeavour to the utmost of their Power to keep Peace and good Order amongst the Members, and to make immediate Demands for the Penalties for Oaths &c. during Club Hours, and likewise to take Care that no more Liquor be expended than what is ordered by the Stewards, or be subject to pay for such Overplus themselves, and for every neglect of their above Duty, to forfeit *Two-pence* to the Box. And that no Person shall be admitted into the Club Room, except the Members of the Society, without Leave of the Stewards.

XI.

THAT an Assistant or Examiner be appointed yearly, whose Office is to examine every new Member who is supposed to be older than the Articles allow for Admittance, respecting his
Age

Age or any other Disqualification regarding his Health, and to give his Opinion respecting the same, and to ask other Questions directed by the Stewards; he is likewise to provide a sufficient Quantity of Half-pence at Meetings and Feasts for the Convenience of Change and dispatching of Business; he is also to take Care that no bad or counterfeit Money be paid by the Members, and if he shall detect any one or more so doing, such Member shall forfeit double the Money so offered to the Box, the Examiner to forfeit *Two-pence* for every Neglect of his Duty, and for not attending Club Hours.

XII.

THAT if any Member Swear, Curse, Game, or offer any Wager during Club Hours, in the Club Room, he or they shall forfeit *Two-pence* as often as they repeat the same that Night; and that if any Member shall strike any other Member during the said Hours, he shall pay *Six-pence* for the first Offence, and if he offends a second Time the same Night, *One Shilling*; and that if any Member at any Time shall upbraid his Fellow-Member on Account of his having received the Benefit of the Box, according to the Articles, he shall forfeit for every Offence of that Nature, *One Shilling*.—N. B. The Constables are to demand for the Use of the Box, all the Penalties included in this and every other Article.

XIII

XIII.

THAT when it shall please God any Member of this Society shall be visited with Sickneſs Lameneſs, or any other Infirmitie, that may render him incapable of Work, ſuch Member, upon three Day's Notice given to the Stewards, ſhall receive *Six Shillings* per Week during his Illneſs, and half that Allowance when ſuch Member ſhall be ſo far recovered from his Indispoſition, as to be ſaid to do or perform half Work, or earn half his uſual Wages, and to continue to receive half Pay until he is capable of performing a ſufficient Day's Work. The Stewards are, upon proper Application, to take Care that the ſick, lame, and infirm Members be regularly paid, or forfeit for every ſuch Omiſſion, *Five Shillings* to the Box; and that no Member of this Society ſhall receive any Benefit from the Box, till they have been a Member thereof eighteen Kallender Months, from the Date of their reſpective Entrances.

XIV.

THAT every Out-Member who on Account of Sickneſs, Lameneſs, or any other Infirmitie ſhall claim the weekly Pay, ſhall at the ſame Time, produce an attested Certificate, directed to the Stewards or Clerk, expreſſing his Diſorder, and ſigned by the Miniſter or Church-Warden of the Pariſh where ſuch Member reſides, or by any Deputy-Steward reſiding within the ſame Pariſh, and

and that Certificates of the same Nature be produced every fourteen Days during the Sickness, or Lameness, &c. of such Member; and that all Out-Members shall be at the Charge of the Conveyance or Carriage of their weekly Pay remitted by the Stewards for their Benefit; and all Letters from distant Members, or Certificates, directed to the Stewards, shall have their Postage paid, or such Charge of Postage be deducted from their Payments; and that the Society will not be answerable for the Miscarriage or Loss of any Money remitted, as directed by any Out-Member.

XV.

THAT every Member who through Age, or any other Circumstance, shall be rendered incapable of working any more for his own or family's Support, every such superannuated Member shall be entitled to, and receive *Three Shillings* per Week during Life; and that every Member who through Age, or any other Indisposition, that may deprive him of earning a Livelihood, shall be free from all Payments, during his Life, or Incapacity for Working: and that no Member shall receive *Six Shillings* per Week for more than one whole Year, during the Continuance of any Indisposition, and *Three Shillings* per Week during such Indisposition afterwards.

XVI.

THAT if any Member counterfeit any Indisposition

position, and claim the Pay, upon satisfactory Proof thereof to the Stewards, every such Member shall be excluded; and that any Member who may be suspected from several concurring Circumstances of feigning any Indisposition and claim the Benefit, every such Member shall submit to the Examination of some skilful Physician, or Surgeon, appointed by the Stewards for that Purpose; and that if any Member refuse to submit to such Examination, he shall not be entitled to any Benefit whatsoever during the Continuance of such Complaint, but that if any Member submit to such Examination, and the Physician or Surgeon declares it his Opinion that such Member's Complaint is not feigned, every such Member, as a Recompence for such mistaken Suspicion, shall be entitled to and receive a Month's Pay, over and above what is due to him from his weekly Allowance according to the Articles; and the Informer, if he be a Member, shall pay such injured Member *One Shilling*, or *Two Shillings* to the Box, by way of Reparation for such prejudicial or false Report to the Injury of his Character.

XVII.

THAT when it shall please God any Member of this Society shall die, having been entered this Society one Year or upwards, there shall be *Forty Shillings* paid out of the Box for a decent Burial, which shall be laid out at the Discretion of the Steward

Stewards, and a Pall shall be paid for out of the said *Forty Shillings*; and every Member that shall attend the Corpse to the Grave, shall have a pair of clean lead coloured Gloves at his own Expence, or shall forfeit *Six-pence* to the Box; and upon the Death of any Member, having been in it five whole Years, from the Date of his Entrance, the Stewards shall upon Notice given, pay out of the Box, the Sum of *Five Pounds* to the Widow, Child, Children, or Heir at Law, or any other Person the deceased Member shall appoint his Heir; but his Funeral Charges shall be paid out of it; and every Member of this Society, shall, at the next Meeting after Notice given by the Stewards, pay into the Box *Six-pence*, over and above all other Payments, or be excluded the Society.

XVIII.

THAT in each Town or Village when and where it may be judged expedient, one Member belonging to this Society shall be appointed a Deputy-Steward, who shall, at least once in a Week, visit any sick or infirm Member, and give or cause to be given, a true Report of the Condition of such Member to the Stewards; and that if any Deputy-Steward shall be proved guilty of giving or causing to be given, an unjust Report either in Favour or Prejudice of any sick or lame Member, he shall forfeit *Five Shillings* to the Box, and be deemed incapable of ever after

after serving the Society in this or any other Office; and that no Deputy-Steward shall be obliged to visit any sick or lame Member at the distance of more than a Mile from the place of his Residence; and if such Deputy-Steward does not visit such Member at least once a Week, and give his Report at least once every Meeting, he shall forfeit for every Neglect, *Six pence* to the Box.

XIX.

THAT when it shall appear from the Book that any Member has paid *Ten Pounds* to the Box, exclusive of all Payments, he or such Member having not received from it on Account of Sickness &c. then he shall be deemed a Freeman, and be entitled to and receive the Box Allowance, and excused his Month's Payments to the Box; it being considered that such Member's pay by Interest is equivalent to the other Members who are not exempted from such Payments; notwithstanding such Members shall pay any other Demands assigned by other Articles or forfeit *Five Shillings* to the Box.

XX.

THAT no Person shall have any Benefit from the Box on Account of any Infirmary he may bring upon himself by Fighting, except such Fighting was necessary in his own Defence; and that no Member shall receive any Benefit whose Infirmary proceeds from a Venereal Complaint; and if Death be the Consequence of such Disease, nothing

thing will be allowed any Heir, &c. and that if any Member enter the Club Room disguised in Liquor he shall forfeit *Two-pence* to the Box; and that if any Dispute shall arise between two or more Members, during Club Hours, such Dispute shall immediately be put to a Reference, and if the Disputants refuse to submit to the Reference's Determination they shall be fined *Sixpence* for the Benefit of the Box.

XXI.

THAT if any Member be imprisoned for Felony and convicted, he shall be totally excluded; but any Member imprisoned for Debt only, shall be excused his Month's Payments, during Confinement; and that if it appears that such Misfortune did not proceed from his own Misconduct, he shall receive every Benefit from the Box, under such pitiable Circumstances, as in Case of Sickness, &c.

XXII.

THAT the Society shall not be dissolved, nor the Cash collected be divided, so long as five Members vote for its Continuance; and that if any Member propose the Dissolution of this Society, upon a fair Conviction, such Member shall be absolutely excluded; and that if the Cash should by any Misfortune be reduced to *Ten Pounds*, every Member, upon Notice given by the Stewards, &c. shall pay into the Box at the next Meeting, *One Shilling* each, over and above their usual Payments, or forfeit *Five Shillings* to the Box.

XXIII.

XXIII.

THAT as it is the indispenfible Duty of every Christian Society, to attend fome religious Place of Worship, all and every Member of this Society do hereby agree, and bind themselves by this Article, to attend Divine Worship, at least once a Month, in their respective Parish Churches, or forfeit *Two-pence* to the Box; nevertheless, it is not intended by this Article, to oblige any Member of a different Religion to attend the Service of the Church of England, but that every dissenting Member be allowed the free Exercise of his own Religion, agreeable to the Principles of his Education, or any other that has been his voluntary Choice; yet every such dissenting Member is obliged to attend Divine Service once at least in the same Space of Time in some Place appointed for that Purpose, agreeable to his own Principles.

XXIV.

THAT every Member of this Society who lives within five Miles of GREAT SHEEPY, or five Miles of the Apothecary's House, who shall be employed by this Society, shall pay into the Box *Two Shillings* on the Feast Day yearly, to an Apothecary to attend such Members as are within the Distances above-mentioned.

XXV.

THAT any Member convicted of breaking one or more of these Articles, to which any Penalty is

is annexed, shall, at the Time of Conviction, or at the next meeting, pay the forfeiture, or be excluded. The Constables are to demand the Fines that are forfeited in Club Hours, and all other Fines the Stewards shall direct them to claim, or forfeit *Two-pence* for Neglect or Disobedience; and that if any excluded member commences a Law-Suit against the Stewards, on Account of his Exclusion, such Steward or Stewards shall be allowed the Expences incurred from such Law-Suit from the Box.

XXVI.

THAT it is and shall be agreed by and between all Parties that do execute these Presents, or that after the Execution thereof shall be admitted a Member of this Society, that whosoever shall be found negligent in obeying, fulfilling performing and keeping all and every the Orders and Agreements herein before mentioned to be obeyed, performed and kept, such Member so negligent, shall not only lose the Benefit of this Society, but be for ever Excluded the same: By so doing we shall demonstrate how useful to mankind a Society of this Nature may be, when its Members are disposed from a Principle of Humanity, to discharge every social Duty that Religion and Reason dictate, the Consequence if our Articles are justly and punctually executed, will certainly crown us and our Endeavours with Peace, Harmony and Happiness, to the Honour of the Parish of GREAT SHEEPY, and Places adjacent.

From

From a full Desire and Resolution of executing the above recited Articles and Injunctions, We the Members thereof have hereunto set our Hands, this first Day of March, 1788.



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T H E
M E M B E R ' s N A M E S ,

According to the Priority of their Entrance.

Time when Entered.	MEMBER'S NAMES.	No.
JUNE 4th, 1787.	Thomas Fisher Esq. . .	1
	John Glover Clark . .	2
	James Ridley . . .	3
	C. G. Harrold . . .	4
	Bill Turner . . .	5
	George Haddon . . .	6
	Thomas Walton . . .	7
	Matthew Hoirns . . .	8
	Thomas Ward . . .	9
	John Moor . . .	10
	Joseph Bostock . . .	11
	Thomas Vernon . . .	12

JUNE 4th, 1787.

William Bramley	. 13
William Briggs	. 14
Daniel Abil	. 15
James Hemeney	. 16
William Everson	. 17
Richard Ward	. 18
Joseph Eld	. 19
Henry Farmer	. 20

JULY 7th, - - -

Robert Radford	. 21
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AUGUST 4th, -

John Smith	. 22
John Storkey	. 23

SEPTEMBER 1st,

Abraham Cope	. 24
Charles Cope	. 25
Robert Faux	. 26
Thomas Radford	. 27

OCTOBER 6th, -

William Ward	. 28
Charles Wilmot	. 29

NOVEMBER 3d, -

John Hanson	. 30
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JANUARY 5th, 1788

Isaac Collins	. 31
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MAY 3d, - - -

Robert Warner	. 32
Thomas Coleman	. 33

	{	William Frith .	34
		Benjamin Wicks .	35
		William Beadman .	36
JUNE 7th, - -	{	Thomas Starkey .	37
		George Gilliver .	38
		Richard Sampson .	39
		Charles Starkey . .	40
	{	John Hewit . .	41
JULY 5th, - -		William Poultney .	42
		Abraham Marler .	43
OCTOBER 4th, - -		John Hough .	44

JOSEPH BOSTOCK, }
JOHN MOOR, } Stewards.

THOMAS WARD, Clerk.

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